

Varun Kumar - NSF APNA Youth Ambassador

Over the course of the week of June 27th, 2016, I went to Avalahalli, a rural suburb of Bangalore. The experience was extremely rewarding in many ways. I was able to view what a school day is like for kids in India and see how privileged I am back at home; the experience truly opened my eyes to the world and I was able to see how much of a privilege education is in the United States. Even though these young kids deal with so much adversity, they come to school every day with an unending desire to learn. As a result, I now see my education as a precious item that should not be wasted.

I taught 4th through 7th grade over the course of a week. The school divided the grades into two large groups: a higher order and a lower order. On Monday, I taught the lower order how consonant and vowel sounds come together to create a word. I touched on a few exceptions to these rules; the kids were very interested in how a word is a "rule-breaker." Then, for the last ten minutes, the class played a game which involved reading a random three-letter word off the board. I taught the higher order students how to pluralize longer words. On the second day, I taught the lower order students how to spell these same three-letter words (CVC- consonant-vowel-consonant) when the word was said to them. This proved to be somewhat challenging, so I spent the first half of Wednesday as well teaching them this concept. Nonetheless, the students still were extremely receptive to the concept of spelling words orally. On Tuesday and the first half of Wednesday, I spent the time teaching the higher order students some exceptions to pluralizing words and how to correctly form and spell the past-tense of words. For both the higher-order and lower-order students, I spent the last half of Wednesday reviewing for the upcoming spelling bee on Friday.

On July 1st, I conducted a spelling bee. I had a written test for each class and found the top ten for each class. Everyone greatly enjoyed the competition. Then, I had an oral spelling bee for each class. The winners of each respective bee received a backpack, while the second place finisher in each received a geometry box. As a thanks for everyone's participation, I gave each student a pen and a piece of candy.



Me teaching the class with the help of their teacher- 6/29/16



The classroom where I taught and conducted the Spelling Bee- 7/1/16



The Spelling Bee Winners and the school Principal-7/1/16